

Fall 2009

ENGR 401: Professional Practice & Management in Engineering

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Term Paper Assignment: Ethical Failures in Banking Sector: How They Affected the World Economy in the 2000s.

Due date: Monday before Thanksgiving Thursday.

The purpose of this paper is to examine the role of ethical failures in the banking sector and Wall Street firms in economic recessions of 2000s (2001-2002, 2007-to present). Based on your readings on this subject, provide a 5-7 page summary of your analysis with the following focus:

- What are the major reasons for the current real-estate led recession?
- What are the adverse consequences of the ethical failures?
- Should such ethical failures happen in the practice of civil engineering, what do you think will be the consequences?

There is a plenty of material available on various news media websites and blogs. While blogs can provide excellent information, it is difficult to establish the credibility of the writers. One opinion blog I recommend is market-ticker.deninnger.net. I believe Mr. Denninger provides an accurate representation of the banking related numbers. If you ignore his political views, I believe that his assessment of the current financial

Focus your readings on certain key corporate failures such as Enron, Bear Sterns and Lehman Brothers, and near failures such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae.

For CEIE 360, I provided the following guidelines for writing intensive assignments. These guidelines and rubric also apply to this assignment

1. Unreferenced material that is not common knowledge; at this stage of the game, reference everything that your mother or grandmother would not know as common knowledge. DO NOT simply include quote after quote in your essay, you must synthesize others ideas, words, etc and write an essay in your own words that blends together facts from several sources into a coherent stand alone essay of your own making.
2. DO NOT write your essay in the first person (for example, I think, I read, in my opinion); you are to write objectively as you might see in a typical sports page article
3. Preferable length of the papers is 4 pages. You can go for more pages with tables and figures. However, DO NOT submit an essay that is longer than 7 pages in length.

Grading rubric

1. Neatness, word processed document with standard margins, sufficient white space, title, name, date, etc. (5 points)
2. Introduction sentence/paragraph to introduce the reader to the essay topic and the format of the essay (10 points)
3. Introduction of relevant sub-topics, with proper citation, 2-3 supporting facts/statements to tie the essay together (20 points)
4. Conclusion sentences at the end of each sub-topic paragraph that easily lead the reader into the next sub-topic to be introduced and why it makes sense to discuss that sub-topic next (10 points)
5. Concluding paragraph that reiterates what was discussed in the essay, why it was important, what were the major facts introduced and why. (20 points)
6. Use of proper verb/noun tense, plural/singular, word choice, sentence structure, etc. (15 points)
7. Proper citation of information not commonly known (20 points)